

Over the years, American medicine, science, and social services have combined to create a society with fewer fatal and crippling diseases, a long life expectancy, better nutrition, and more fruitful opportunities for work and leisure.

Infant mortality has reached its lowest rate since we began to keep reliable records: It is 12 percent below its level five years ago.

Through vaccination programs, we have cut by one-half the number of children who suffer from polio, diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough. We are on the verge of eliminating measles totally.

Yet, far too many American children are born with only a dim prospect of sharing in America's promise—because they are born into poverty. And today, 12 million Americans under 18 years old live in poverty.

We still rank only 15th among advanced nations in our effort to reduce infant deaths.

These are compelling reasons for paying special attention to unfinished business in child health.

We cannot allow one American child to be denied the benefits of our knowledge and common effort.

All of our children must have the opportunity to develop their abilities and talents to their fullest. This is their birthright, and we must protect it.

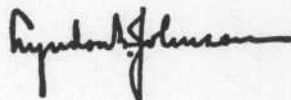
To demonstrate national concern for the well-being of our children, the Congress has directed the President to proclaim annually the first Monday in October as Child Health Day.

45 Stat. 617;
73 Stat. 627.
36 USC 143.

This day is also an appropriate time to salute the work which the United Nations, through its specialized agencies, and the United Nations Children's Fund are doing to build better health for children around the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LYNDON B. JOHNSON, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate Monday, October 7, 1968, as Child Health Day. I invite all persons, all agencies and organizations concerned for the welfare of the world's children to unite on that day in actions that will bring strength and recognition to efforts which foster better child health.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and ninety-third.



Proclamation 3877

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, 1968

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The twentieth century is rightly regarded as the era of science and technology. Scientific achievements and technological advances

October 10, 1968

have radically altered the conditions of life for most men on our planet. Relations between men, and between man and his environment, have been permanently changed by events that began in the scientific laboratory.

As a result of this revolution in knowledge, it has become possible for all men to be adequately fed, clothed, and sheltered; for new energy resources to be committed to man's use; for information to be spread broadly and instantaneously to the remotest regions of the earth.

It has also become possible for man to destroy himself; for local aggression to be converted into global catastrophe; for mis-information and demagoguery to reach millions, and to shape their political destinies.

The scientific and technological revolution offers man unparalleled opportunities to liberate—or to enslave—his spirit. He can gain his freedom from physical want, and lose his identity in the prosperous streets of great cities. He can move his family to a healthier and more spacious environment, and lose the sense of community with his fellow men. He can free more hours for leisure activity, and find those hours empty and purposeless.

Thus his spirit lives in a state of crisis. In the midst of that crisis—as in days long ago, before “science and technology” were common words to his tongue—man cries out for meaning, for guidance, for assurance that his spirit is of value. In the midst of baffling change, he longs for enduring values. In the impersonal rush of his days, he seeks a sign that he is known, and accepted, as a unique person.

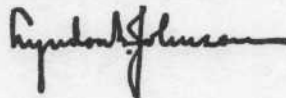
In this era of science and technology, we have set aside a day of prayer. Let us use it to thank God for the blessings of human industry and ingenuity, and to seek His strength, His love, and His guidance in the crisis of our spirit.

The Congress, by a joint resolution of April 17, 1952, provided that the President “shall set aside and proclaim a suitable day each year, other than a Sunday, as a National Day of Prayer, on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals.”

66 Stat. 64.
36 USC 185.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LYNDON B. JOHNSON, President of the United States of America, do hereby set aside Wednesday, October 16, 1968, as National Day of Prayer, 1968.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and ninety-third.



Proclamation 3878

UNITED NATIONS DAY, 1968

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

October 11, 1968

On October 24, 1968, the world will mark the twenty-third birthday of the United Nations.